

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 22-31 were pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 15-17, and 22-25 were rejected, and claims 7-14, 18, and 26-31 were objected to. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 22, 26, and 27 are amended herein, and claims 13, 18, and 30 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14-17, 22-29, and 31 remain active in the application. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-14, 18, and 26-31 were identified as containing allowable subject matter, but were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims. Applicant has now amended the claims to place the allowable subject matter in proper form for allowance.

The limitations of claim 13 have been copied into claim 1, such that claim 1 now represents claim 13 in independent form. Claims 2-6 and 10-12 should now be allowable as they depend from an allowable claim.

The limitations of prior claims 1, 2, and 6 have been copied into each of claims 7 and 8, placing those claims in independent form. Claims 7-9 should thus be allowable.

The limitations of prior claim 1 have been copied into claim 14, which is now in independent form and should be allowable.

The limitations of claim 18 have been copied into claim 15, such that claim 15 now represents claim 18 in independent form. Claims 16 and 17 should now be allowable as they depend from an allowable claim.

The limitations of claim 30 have been copied into claim 22, such that claim 22 now represents claim 30 in independent form. Claims 23-25 and 29 should now be allowable as they depend from an allowable claim.

The limitations of prior claims 22, 23, and 25 have been copied into each of claims 26 and 27, placing those claims in independent form. Claims 26-28 should thus be allowable.

The limitations of claim 22 have been copied into claim 31, which is not in independent form and should be allowable.

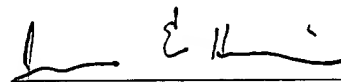
Accordingly, the amendments meet the requirements specified in the prior Office Action and place the remaining claims in form for allowance of the case. Applicant submits that no issues remain to be resolved, and respectfully requests entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims as amended.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12, 14-17, 22-29, and 31 of the application is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (512) 867-8502 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

HAYNES and BOONE, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Harris', is written over a horizontal line.

James E. Harris
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